

TOWN OF GRIFFITH RESOLUTION NO.2010-1

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, REQUESTING THAT THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE STATE OF INDIANA ENACT LEGISLATION PERMITTING THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA TO BE REMOVED FROM CALUMET TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, The Griffith Town Council, as the legislative and fiscal body of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana from, time to time, encounters issues of public importance which require a statement of position from the elected representatives as part of the public discourse on the matter; and

WHEREAS, Calumet Township in Lake County, Indiana consists of a small unincorporated area of the Township, most of the Town of Griffith, and all of Gary; and

WHEREAS, For every one dollar (\$1.00) the Town of Griffith collects in property taxes from its citizens and businesses, Calumet Township receives approximately 50 cents (\$.50) from those same citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Accounting Reports indicate that the Calumet Township Trustee and Calumet Township Board spend one dollar (\$1.00) in poor relief for each two dollars and sixty two cents (\$2.62) it collects. The remainder is spent on administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, Citizens residing in Griffith receive very little benefits from Calumet Township in proportion to the amount of tax revenue collected from them by the Township; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Griffith has no representatives on the Calumet Township Trustees Board which creates a prima facie case of taxation without representation which denies the citizens of the Town of Griffith any say in the operation and distribution of the funds to which they have contributed; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the Town of Griffith have shown their displeasure with Calumet Township government by signing a petition containing the signatures of approximately 4000 Griffith residents requesting legislation that would allow Griffith to secede from Calumet Township or legislation abolishing the Township form of government in Indiana, and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Griffith further showed their displeasure with Calumet Township government in the 2008 General election in which a referendum was placed on the ballot asking: " Should the Calumet Township Assessor's Office be eliminated?", and over 80 % of all Griffith voters cast a ballot in favor of eliminating the Calumet Township Assessor's Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

Section 1. That legislation be passed that will provide a method that will allow the Town of Griffith to remove itself from Calumet Township upon approval by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by Griffith citizens in a referendum and will further permit the Town of Griffith to form their own Township or merge the Township function with other units of government; or

Section 2. That legislation be passed that will allow a reorganization of Townships that would result in Griffith receiving proper representation at the Township level; or

Section 3. That legislation be passed relieving the elected officials in Calumet Township of their duties and authorizing the governments of Lake County or the State of Indiana to assume those duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Town Clerk-Treasurer be hereby instructed to forward this Resolution to the each member of the Indiana General Assembly, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, and Governor Mitch Daniels.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of January, 2010 by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana.

COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

Glen Gaby

George Jerome

Rick Ryfa

Michael Gulley

Stan Dobosz

Attest:

Ronald J. Szafarczyk
Clerk-Treasurer